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BAPTISTS

Name change task force releases report

NASHVILLE (Special) — The task force appointed by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Bryant Wright to study a convention name change recommended Feb. 20 to the SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville that the formal name of the convention remain the same for legal and image reasons, and proposed that the phrase, "Great Commission Baptists," be used as an add-on when referring to the convention. The recommendation was released as the deadline approached for publishing this issue of The Baptist Record. Full coverage of the task force recommendation will be published next week in the March 1 issue of The Baptist Record.

Crying foul



ON CAPITOL HILL, Southern Baptist ethicist C. Ben Mitchell (center) of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and Craig Mitchell (right) of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, are among the witnesses sworn in for a Feb. 16 hearing of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee who were critical of the Obama administration's mandate that health insurance plans must cover contraceptives, which can cause abortions. BP photo.

Leaders slam Obama contraceptive edict

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The Obama administration's mandate that private health insurance plans cover contraceptives that can cause abortions harms not only Baptists and other religious adherents but all Americans, two Southern Baptist ethicists told a congressional panel Feb. 16. Their comments came during a four-and-a-half-hour hearing on the federal rule's impact on freedom of religion and conscience before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee of the House of Representatives. Ten representatives of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish bodies spoke in opposition to the mandate and what critics describe as its lack of sufficient religious and conscience protections for houses of worship, religious institutions and individuals. C. Ben Mitchell of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and consultant on bio-

medical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, told the committee the rule "is an unconscionable intrusion by the state into the consciences of American citizens." "Contrary to portrayals in some of the popular media, this is not just a Catholic issue," said Mitchell, Graves professor of moral philosophy at the Baptist-affiliated school. "All people of faith — and even those who claim no faith — have a stake in whether or not the government can violate the consciences of its citizenry. Religious liberty and the freedom to obey one's conscience is also not just a Baptist issue. It's an American issue enshrined in our founding documents." Testifying as part of the same panel, Craig Mitchell of Southwestern

Seminary in Ft. Worth told members the requirement "is wrong not just for religious conservatives." "It's wrong for all Americans, because it takes away the freedom of the citizens while emboldening the federal government to do whatever it wants," said the seminary's associate professor of Christian ethics. "It's wrong because it violates the Constitution. It's wrong because it violates religious liberty. It's wrong because it forces people to violate their consciences. ... This ruling is just plain wrong for America." The Mitchells, who are unrelated, added their voices to the growing public dissent by Southern Baptists against the "contraceptive mandate," as it has become known. Southern Baptist leaders have joined the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church, other Protestant

See Edict on page two



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A worldwide scam on the World Wide Web

Beloved in Christ, Calvary Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I have been briefed to contact you because of passion for humanity and sympathy for people with just causes. I am a new Christian convert, suffering from long time cancer.

From all indications my condition is really deteriorating and it is quite obvious that I won't live more than six months. It has

defiled all forms of medical treatment, and right now I have only about a few months to live, according to medical experts. I have not particularly lived my life so well, as I never really cared for anything but my business. Though I am very rich, but now I regret all this as I now know that there is more to life than just wanting to have or make all the money in the world.

I want God to be merciful to me and accept my soul so, I have decided to give alms to charity organizations and those in need, as I want this to be one of the last good deeds I do on earth. So far, now that my health has deteriorated so badly, I cannot do this

myself anymore. The last of my money which only my attorney knows of is the huge cash deposit of Five Million United States Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) that I have with an Asset Management / Vaulting Company Abroad. I will want you to help me collect this deposit. I am willing to donate this 5 million U.S. dollars to you for the less privilege and for practical Christian service and concern.

And upon my instruction, my attorney, who presently is in Accra Ghana distributing relief materials to victims and an appli-

cation for the transfer of the money in your name. Lastly, I honestly pray that this money when it gets to your hand will be used for the said purpose. So if you know that you will use this fund honestly for things that will glorify God's name and purpose of God's work, then do urgently contact me back and the details will be given to you on how you will be able to receive the fund.

Anyone with a computer and an e-mail address has likely received at least one such plaintive message lately — if not a whole slew of them. At The Baptist Record, the count for this year will be several hundred such messages.

The names and reply addresses may be different, but the point is always the same: The writer is a rich but dying new Christian, always overseas, seeking to give away his fortune to someone who will use it properly to ensure his entrance into heaven. All that need be done is to contact the writer for instructions on how to transfer the money.

If the recipient does reply, he/she is usually told to withdraw a substantial sum of money from their own bank account and send it to the writer, so the writer's money can be freed up. Then, according to the writer, all of the recipient's money plus the new-found fortune will be sent to the recipient.

"The scheme relies on convincing a willing victim, who has demonstrated a propensity for larceny" by responding to the invitation, to send money to the author of the letter in Nigeria in several installments of increasing amounts for a variety of reasons," reports the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), referring to a particular scam that originates in the African nation of Nigeria.

"Payment of taxes, bribes to government officials, and legal fees are often

described in great detail with the promise that all expenses will be reimbursed as soon as the funds are spirited out of Nigeria. In actuality, the millions of dollars do not exist and the victim eventually ends up with nothing but loss," the FBI states.

"Once the victim stops sending money, the perpetrators have been known to use the personal information and checks that they received to impersonate the victim, draining bank accounts and credit card balances until the victim's assets are taken in their entirety. While such an invitation impresses most law-abiding citizens as a laughable hoax, millions of dollars in losses are caused by these schemes annually," the FBI warns.

There are many variations on this Internet scam, some involving the expressed desire to plant new churches, donate large sums to a seminary, or provide Bibles to people groups who have none. It's hard to believe folks fall for such a pitch but, according to the FBI, it happens often.

It's particularly egregious when Southern Baptists fall prey to such artifice, because we already have the best system to fund such mission endeavors. We don't need to respond to scams foisted on us in the Name of the Lord to accomplish our duty under the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Southern Baptists have the Cooperative Program, the missions offerings, and many other ways to support the spreading of the Gospel that have been proven effective and cost-efficient. If there are any doubts about whether a program is worthy — spiritually as well as financially — we must be willing to do the research and ask the hard questions to be sure the cause is legitimate.

Don't waste your money. Don't waste the Lord's money. Don't respond to these scams. Do the right thing.

Edict continued from page 1

bodies, and some Jewish organizations in opposition to the rule since the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced Jan. 20 that health plans must cover abortion-causing contraceptives and sterilizations as preventive services for employees.

The HHS mandate requires all methods approved as birth control by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be included in a range of services offered to patients free of charge. Those FDA-endorsed contraceptives include ones that have abortion-causing properties such as "ella," emergency contraception such as "Plan B," and the mechanical intrauterine device (IUD).

Those methods all have mechanisms that can prevent tiny embryos from implanting in the uterine wall. In the case of "ella," it also can block production of the hormone progesterone, destroying the placenta that provides nutrition to the embryo and causing the unborn child to essentially starve to death.

Opponents of the rule have especially protested its failure to provide an adequate religious or conscience exemption. The rule includes an exception for employers who

oppose paying for such coverage on religious grounds, but it is narrowly drawn. It will protect many churches but apparently will not cover churches that may primarily serve people outside their faith.

The exemption also will not extend to such faith-based organizations as schools, hospitals, and social service programs.

After an onslaught of criticism, U.S. President Barack Obama announced a change Feb. 10, saying religious organizations would not have to pay for or provide contraceptives if they object on religious grounds. Instead, he said, their insurance companies would be required to pay for such services.

Southern Baptist leaders and other opponents said Obama's solution did not address the religious liberty and conscience problems. Some described it as an "accounting gimmick" that would still require religious organizations to be complicit in paying for employees' abortion-causing contraceptives through their insurance companies.

Dub Oliver, president of East Texas Baptist University (ETBU), expressed concern about the mandate. "Perhaps the most frightening aspect of this entire episode for ETBU is that we have no idea where this road will end," Oliver told the panel. "Today, the administration is trying to force us to provide our employees with abortion-causing drugs. What's next?"

"If the government can force Catholic monks to dispense birth control, what can't the government do?" Oliver asked. "If the government can decide that East Texas Baptist University is not religious enough to have the right to religious liberty, what can't the government do?"

"If this administration can just decide that religious believers are less important than its chosen policy goals, what can't it do?"

To add to opponents' dissatisfaction with the president's revision, HHS did not actually change the rule. As witnesses and at least one Republican committee member said in the Feb. 16 hearing, nothing changed after Obama's announcement.

The Heritage Foundation reported the final regulation published Feb. 15 in the Federal Register did not include the language described by Obama.

The witnesses at the House panel hearing expressed a determination not to comply with the requirement even in the face of fines that some described as potentially in the millions of dollars or possible imprisonment.

Because Southern Baptists believe in a free church in a free state, "tens of thousands of us, maybe hundreds of thousands of us, would be very willing to spend nights in jail for the sake of the preservation of religious liberty," C. Ben Mitchell told the committee.

"It's not just our coffers that are at risk. It is our very freedom."



Craig Mitchell



C. Ben Mitchell

N.Y.C. church evictions stayed, for now

Congregations continue meetings under judge's temporary order

NEW YORK CITY (BP) — A federal judge has intervened on behalf of New York City churches, issuing a temporary restraining order that allows them to continue meeting for worship in public schools while the court deliberates the constitutionality of a city-approved ban designed to evict them.

Judge Loretta Preska of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York granted the stay, which is in effect for 10 days, because the churches "demonstrated irreparable harm and a likelihood of success on the merits of their Free Exercise and Establishment Clause claims."

Pastors in the city applauded the news, which apparently will give them at least two more Sundays in public schools. "This is definitely an answer to

prayer, and we look forward to future stories of victory with this situation," Ray Parascando, pastor of Crossroads Church in Staten Island, N.Y., told Baptist Press.

"What's going to happen now is that this stay gives churches the ability to be there on Sunday and the 10-day period will give the judge more time to render a more long-term decision that will help churches. It's extremely positive. It shows that there are lawmakers and judges that believe in the Constitution and the founders and framers of our country, and it's just exciting to see that there are people who still want to uphold these truths. So I'm really happy about it," Parascando said.

The ban on churches using public schools was issued by the New York City Department of Education, which cited a need to protect the minds of "impressionable youth." The U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the ban last year, and a further appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court failed when justices there declined to hear the case.

The latest legal round involves different First Amendment claims than were examined by the appeals court,

says the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), which is representing the churches. Specifically, ADF is arguing that the city's policy amounts to hostility toward churches, a violation of the Free Exercise Clause.

The Second Circuit's ruling was based on an examination of the Free Speech and Establishment Clauses, not the Free Exercise Clause.

"The NYC law prohibits conduct undertaken for religious reasons," ADF argued in its motion before Preska. "...The effect of the Department's policy is to target religious practices."

Crossroads, a Southern Baptist congregation which met in Public School 52 for more than four years, held what it thought would be its last worship service in that location. Feb. 12, joining about 60 churches —

mostly evangelical congregations — in being evicted from meeting space they rented from the city's schools.

Politicians were present at Crossroads' Feb. 12 service to show support, and Parascando said that means there are public officials who believe the ban is unconstitutional.

Crossroads had applied for a permit with the school system to hold a community farewell gathering this coming Sunday instead of a worship service, but the church was told any permit they requested would be highly scrutinized. Now, because of the judge's intervention, they can meet freely for at least two more Sundays.

No matter what the court ultimately decides, Crossroads has plans to move to an abandoned movie theater at some point because they believe that's where God is leading. The restraining order is not necessarily as vital for them as it is for other churches that have nowhere else to go, Parascando said.

"It's for the future effort of church planting," he told BP. "Renting schools is a very affordable option and a good start for churches, so this isn't just about right now. This is about the

future of church planting in New York. This isn't just about Feb. 19, although this is a victory and this preserves our opportunity to keep fighting. This is for the greater purpose of the Kingdom

because renting schools is good for church planting, and most importantly, it gives us a great opportunity as churches to reach the community."

Despite the intensity of the debate over churches meeting in schools, Parascando said it's important to keep the issue in perspective. "I've been encouraging other pastors that this isn't like we're against the school board or we're against the mayor. God holds all of this stuff in His hands anyway," he said. "We've just got to continue to maintain a spirit of perseverance and stand up for what is right, and at the same time still love these people because in the end God's will is going to be done. God's in control, not the mayor or anybody else. Ultimately that's got to be our focus."

The Alliance Defense Fund sought the order earlier this month to stop the evictions. "Churches help communities. Evicting churches hurts communities. Empty buildings offer nothing to communities that need hope," said ADF senior counsel Jordan Lorence, who argued before the court.

"The court's order is a message of hope for fundamental freedoms in New York City because it means that, for the time being, the city must welcome churches as it does other groups. ADF will continue to fight this battle relentlessly until the city no longer unconstitutionally prohibits activity for purely religious reasons."

Legislation to override the New York City Department of Education's ban on churches meeting in public schools appeared stalled in the state Assembly after the state Senate

approved a measure 55-7.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a Democrat from Manhattan, has not indicated he will schedule a vote but Sen. Martin Golden, who introduced the Senate bill, reportedly said the bill has a good chance of passing the Assembly if the members are allowed to vote on it.

The Assembly in the state of New York is equivalent to the Mississippi House of Representatives.

"I think the way the Senate is taking it up, it's seriously flawed," said Silver, a Democrat from Manhattan, according to The New York Times. "It would open up the schools to anybody. It might include the Ku Klux Klan."

In response to the judge issuing a stay, New York City Council Member Fernando Cabrera, pastor of New Life Outreach International in the Bronx, said, "Now that the courts have spoken up on the side of fairness, I call on the New York State Legislature and Speaker Sheldon Silver to move forward with bills that would rapidly solve this issue."

"This court order is a fantastic victory and will calm the 60-plus congregations that were frantically searching for space. I commend the U.S. District Court for ruling justly," said Cabrera, who introduced a resolution in support of the churches at the city council.

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— Parascando

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BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi native Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board, releases a letter asking current IMB missionaries to sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

20 years ago

Jimmy McCaleb is the new contract consultant for the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He will serve as small church and associational consultant, replacing Danny Jones who has joined the staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

30 years ago

Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, dedicates its new auditorium Feb. 25. The seating capacity of the interim auditorium is 1300, and is air conditioned with carpeted aisles.

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Clue: K = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew One:Twenty-three

WHEN A DIFFERENCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

In a world of political, theological, and overall general spin, and everyone wants to make their personal hot button issue the most critical issue to ever appear on the horizon. You see it and hear it all of the time and those who are the most gifted in shaping the issue and the circumstances can make it appear as though this issue and this decision is paramount to World War III or the dropping of an enormous nuclear weapon right on your head. Often it makes sense and, of course, is very important. Sometimes it is the exaggerated, overblown hype of a meaningless or non-issue. Like it or not every one of us must wade through all of the talk and jargon and the multiplicity of spin doctors to try to figure out what is what and most of all, when a difference makes a difference.

One morning I listened as a mother was trying to get her preschool daughter in the car and head off to the day's activities. In the beautiful, bright morning sky the little girl noticed a jet as it made its way across the heavens leaving a bright, white contrail. She said, "Look Mama! Isn't that beautiful?" The mother responded, "It is." Then she began to explain to her daughter what that was. She told her it was called a contrail and it was the trail left by a jet as it was flying way up in the heavens. You could see it for a long spot in the sky that was some model of a jet. The little girl studied it for a moment and said, "Now Mama that is not a jet. That is a rocket." The mother knowing that it was not a rocket said, "No honey that is a jet." Now the almost four year old little girl was armed for battle and said, "No Mama I know it is a rocket!"

I do not know what came before that moment in their day — what getting up, eating breakfast, and getting ready for school was like. I do know it can be a tiring experience before you ever walk out of the door. Choosing not to mark the day with conflict and controversy the mother simply said, "Okay honey if you want it to be a rocket, it is a rocket!" The little girl nodded and climbed up into the back of the car realizing that she had won that battle. The mother keeping her own wits about her and not wanting to go through another war with the child got in the car. I am sure she was feeling why fight that battle. What is the point? When an adult wins an argument of that nature with a four year old child, the difference does not make a difference.

When it comes to trying to find out when a difference makes a difference, I must



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

confess that it is not always easy. There are times when things seem so simple you just brush them aside and ignore them. At other times something may have incredible and even life-changing dimensions to it that will make a difference in the days ahead. So just ignoring everything and hoping it will work out is not a good way to deal with some issues in life long-term. On the other hand there are things that will not have a bearing on anybody or anything 15 minutes after the confrontation takes place. The conflict is far worse than the facts. Now when a difference makes a difference it needs to be looked at carefully in every area of life. Just for your thoughts, I will provide two or three for you to consider.

For instance, in your marriage dealing with issues that actually make a difference should be addressed. Just being nitpicking and argumentative to prove your point and get your way may be meaningless except to create more problems in the relationship. You have probably known of those couples that cannot for the life of them agree on anything. If one says something, the other mate contradicts it or questions it. Back and forth the daily tug of war takes place over things that do not matter whatsoever. I fully recognize that there are major issues that do make a difference. There are significant differences of opinion related to morals, theology, or

even the relationship that can be destructive. But sometimes there are issues that rise up during the day that do not matter and one or the other of the companions feels a righteous indignation to stand up, draw their sword, and fight to the death over. It seems to help if both people in a marriage recognize those times when a difference makes a difference and leave the rest of it alone.

You have probably noticed that many times there is one person who just always has to have the last word and point out all of the deficiencies in an issue, event, or in their relationship, and has to stand up and make a difference in everything. It creates tension constantly. If that be true, it helps immensely if the other person is mature enough, caring enough, and even yielding enough in their heart and in their open response to say, "Well that really does not make any difference." If both people in a marriage have to make their points and fight to the death over everything that comes up, you can almost guarantee that there will be stormy days ahead.

Take that same thought of when a difference makes a difference into your workplace and the relationships there. If every little thing that is disagreed on at work is a major point of conflict, it is going to be difficult to live day after day in that environment. If every word, every decision, and every reaction is placed under the scrutiny of a policy

book and slapping someone on the hand because they are painting outside of the lines, you may not be able to stay in that environment. You may wish that someone else was your boss or the employees are wishing that as the boss you could be at least a little more caring. The work environment can be a place of heartbreak and ulcers.

One other place this principle of when a difference makes a difference should be at least thought through is at church. I do appreciate heating and air conditioning. I love positive, Christ exalting, and uplifting music. I appreciate bushes being trimmed, lots being paved, Sunday School classes having to move to accommodate the crowd, and the times of our worship services having to be adjusted because of some unfortunate and critical need that may be in the community. But all of these combined do not rise to a level worthy of breaking relationships and derailing the church from its mission. My only encouragement would be that time and time again and in experience after experience you think about when a difference makes a difference. Before you pick up your sledgehammer to kill a fly, remember that a little bit of nuisance from that fly may be easier to deal with than paying for the \$2,000 television that he lands upon.

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worship. Submit resumes to Jonathan
Baker, Pastor, at 85 Friendship Road,
Ecru, MS 38841 or to
jonathan.baker@fbcecu.com.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH,
BROOKHAVEN, MS. IS SEEKING A P/T
MUSIC DIRECTOR. Send resumes to:
Charlotte Newell, P. O. Box 368,
Wesson, Ms. 39191 or email to wancha2353@att.net.

FBC FLORA IS SEEKING A P/T
CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Please send
resumes to P. O. Box 163, Flora, MS
39071 or e-mail to jcole@fbcflora.org.

THE NEWTON SCOTT BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING
RESUMES FOR A FULL TIME AREA
MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Please mail
resumes to P.O. Box 719, Decatur, MS,
39327. Attention: AMD Search
Committee.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 23, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Church Building Conference *LifeWay Church Architecture*

Location: Baptist Building, Skyroom, Jackson

March 20, 2012

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Leaders are invited to attend this event to receive quality church facility information.

Contact Keith Gordon for more information,
601-292-3307 or 1-800-748-1651, ext 307.

Registration requested; to register, e-mail cwtaylor@mbcb.org.
Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., MBCB

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- Church Missions Leadership Training

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On-site registration
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March 22, at 3:30 p.m.

Conference runs
through Saturday,
March 24, 12:15 p.m.-

Mini-Conference topics
will include:

- More to Life
- Inventory: Manual or Concourse
- Library Activities
- Preparing Your Church History
- Processing—"Show and Tell"
- A Ministry of Cards
- Concourse Q & A

March 22-24, 2012

GARAYWA

Camp and Conference
Center, Clinton



with Clarence Cooper
Worship Bible leader

Conference topics will include:
Working Together with Melvil and Minnie;
Developing and Nurturing Your Ministry Team;
Sharing Jesus Through the Library;
Planning, Budgeting, and Policy Development

Go to http://mbcb.org/business_services/cs/cim.aspx
for a full brochure and registration information, or
contact Communication Services, Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, at 1-800-748-1651 (MS only),
601-292-3378 (locally), 601-714-7412 (fax),
irichardson@mbcb.org or jchen@mbcb.org.

LIFE COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Choose a time to focus attention on God's calling
to vocational ministry and the need for all
believers to find their place of leadership in His
work. Suggested emphasis date: April 15

Contact Alan Woodward for more information,
601-292-3308 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 308.
Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., MBCB

2012

PREACHING CONFERENCE

First Baptist Church, Batesville
April 23

First Baptist Church, Starkville
April 24

First Baptist Church, Newton
April 25

Register online at www.mbc.org/pc2012

For more information call:

1-800-748-1651, ext. 305

or e-mail: cvtaylor@mbc.org

Amazing WONDERS 2012 KICK OFF FOR ALL VBS LEADERS

March 1, 2012

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Longview Heights
Baptist Church
Olive Branch, Miss.

March 3, 2012

9 a.m. - noon
First Baptist Church
Richland, Miss.
1102 Hwy 49 S

VBS materials will be on display and available to purchase from LifeWay Christian Resources. An overview of LifeWay Curriculum, Worship Rally Crafts, and Snacks Training Sessions for Evangelism Promotion, and Decorations. Local users of non-LifeWay curriculum will share.

For more information contact Angie Boydston at aboyston@mbc.org or

Carolyn Day at cdlay@mbc.org

or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or 601-202-3291

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 500
Jackson, MS 39203

HeartSong 2012

the Music and Worship
Arts Camp
for 6th - 12th
graders

June 26 - 30,
2012



Students will
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Preview DVD
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Cost: \$165 per
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For more information,
and to print your
registration form, go to
www.mbc.org and click the
"2012 Noted Events" icon to
download the file.

Spring Area Senior Adult Rallies

- **Rally 4** Thursday, March 8, at FBC, West Point
For more info: Lee at 662-494-4213
or dgordon31@bellsouth.net
- **Rally 8** Tuesday, March 13, at FBC, Columbia
For more info: 601-798-4886
- **Rally 9** Thursday, March 22, at FBC, Piquette
For more info: 601-798-4886
- **Rally 2** Monday, March 26, at West Jackson Street, Tupelo
For more info: Jim at 662-256-8778
or monroe41@bellsouth.net
- **Rally 5** Tuesday, March 27, at Crossgates BC, Brandon
For more info: BJ at 601-825-2562
or bjeague@crossgates.org
- **Rally 7** Thursday, April 19, at FBC, Crystal Springs
For more info: Talmadge at 601-669-6555
or tamandmalliesmith@yahoo.com
- **Rally 3** Tuesday, April 17, at FBC, Jackson
For more info: Barry at 662-226-5316
or barry@emphibapt.org

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Lead

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JULY 16-20, 2012

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SPEAKER



WORKSHOP LEADER



ADULT SABBATH LEADER



Amazing Wonders VBS Church Leadership Training

6:30 - 9 p.m.

CONFERENCES

- Preschool and Children
- Pastors and General Officers
- Children's Rotation: Missions, Music, Crafts, Snacks
- Club VBS: Space Quest
- Conferences also offered for non-LifeWay users.
- VBS evangelism, promotion, follow-up and more.

April 10, 2012

Springdale BC, Ripley, MS
FBC Wiggins, Wiggins, MS

April 12, 2012

FBC Eupora, Eupora, MS
North Oxford BC, Oxford, MS

April 17, 2012

Liberty BC, Liberty, MS
FBC Grenada, Grenada, MS

For more information contact Angie Boydsun at
aboydsun@mbcb.org or
Carolyn Day at cday@mbcb.org
or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or 601-292-3291

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Reserve your seat today!
Pre-register today and get a free VBS Inflatible!



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June 4-7

Central Hills
Campus Retreat

Speaker:
Gary Permenter

Session II:
June 7-10

Central Hills Baptist
Retreat

Speaker:
Gary Permenter

Session III:
June 11-14

Blue Mountain
College

Speakers:
Kevin Cooper

For more information contact Rene Edwards at
601-292-3283 or reedwards@mbcb.org, or contact Kari Hall at 601-292-3286 or khall@mbcb.org

2012 State Single Adult Day Retreat — North

Saturday, May 19, 2012 | 10 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
At Central Hills, Kosciusko | 662-289-9730 or
dramage@mbcb.org

Cost: \$20; Deadline to register: May 11

To register, call Jo Wasson at
800-748-1651, ext. 216, or mail
registration fee to: MBCB Conference
Office, PO Box 530, Jackson MS
39205

For more information call Glenn Shows at
800-748-1651, ext. 373, or e-mail
gshows@mbcb.org



Pray this day for...

Feb. 24 – March 8, 2012

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 14:6

Pray for: **John and Sarah Perkins**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in France through church and home outreach, evangelism and providing mission support.

Pray for: **Michael and Sarah Prewitt**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **John and Amy Puri**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Bulgaria through volunteer coordination, and community and home evangelism.

Pray for: **Tracy and Eugenia Putnam**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Russia through theological education, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael and Annette Racey**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Mike and Linda Ray**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Ukraine through strategy coordination, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for a team of two from **Bett BC, Coldwater**, traveling to minister in Thailand, Feb. 25 – March 5.

Pray for a volunteer from **West Ripley BC, Ripley**, traveling to Southeast Asia to minister through evangelism and training, March 3-15.

Pray for: **Steven and Nickolee Roberts**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for a team of nine from **Macedonia BC, Myrtle**, traveling to Southeast Asia to minister through evangelism and training, March 7-17.

Pray for a team of nine from **Good Hope, Purvis**, traveling to minister in Kenya, March 8-16.

Pray for a team of nine from **Mississippi College**, traveling to Mexico to minister through church planting, March 8-17.

Pray for a team of eight from **FBC, Louisville**, traveling to minister in Southeast Asia, March 8-20.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Victory in Jesus Celebration

»Single Adult Addition

Friday, March 2

6:30 — 9:30 p.m.

@ The Baptist Center
(903 Valley View Drive)
Philadelphia, MS

Cost: \$5 at the door
(with advanced
reservation requested)

For more information:
601-656-1820 or
neshobabaptist@yahoo.com

Planned and promoted by the Neshoba County Baptist Single Adult "TOWELS" and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Mississippi Baptist State Ministry Assistants

Conference

April 16-17, 2012



The conference full of invaluable training, equipping, and fellowship for Mississippi ministry assistants returns this year to Garaywa Camp & Conference Center in Clinton.

For more information, or to register, contact Cathy Taylor, ministry assistant, Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., at 601-292-3305 or ctaylor@mbcb.org.

CHAMPION OF GRACE

Day Retreat for Single Adults (Ages 20-38)

Saturday, May 26, 2012

Pearl River Association Center, McNeill (close to Picayune)
10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Cost: \$20; Registration open now
Send payment to MBCB Conference

Mail registration fee to MBCB Conference Office,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205; or, to pay with credit
card, call Jo Wasson at 800-748-1651, ext. 216.

For more information: 601-798-2372 or prba@huges.net or
www.facebook.com/event.php_eig=168452363225346. DVDs for promotion
of this retreat will be available.

Victory in Jesus Celebration

For Families

Saturday, March 3

8 a.m. — noon

The Baptist Center
(903 Valley View Drive)
Philadelphia, MS

For more information:
601-656-1820 or
neshobabaptist@yahoo.com

Planned and promoted by the Neshoba County Baptist Single Adult "TOWELS" and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

HOUSE TOPS

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Cindy Cofield, alumni director for William Carey University, is shown presenting a copy of the 1929 diploma from Mississippi Woman's College (the predecessor to WCU) to Amite County resident Mildred Belle Martin Barron, the oldest living graduate of Mississippi Woman's College. As a gift for her 105th birthday, WCU gave her a framed copy of the diploma to replace her original one that was lost in a house fire in 1936.



1. Cofield and Martin

college and university in the state of Mississippi must meet a certain criteria to receive Blue Ribbon status.

2. William Carey University's teacher education program has recently been approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education under the new Blue Ribbon Redesign for Teacher Education. Every



3. Meeks, Teel, and Lee

3. Wanda Lee, right, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, recently visited Blue Mountain College

and spoke with students during a chapel service. Visiting with Lee afterwards were Ronald Meeks, Director of

Church Relations and Professor of Biblical and Associated Studies; and Maria Teel, Director of Admissions.

LET YOUR LIGHT SO

SHINE

BEFORE MEN ...

MATTHEW 5:16

4th Annual Great Commission Conference

A Time of Revival and Renewal

Saturday, March 3rd & Sunday, March 4th

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH
75 Providence Road ♦ Jayess, MS 39641

Call (601) 794-7836 for more info
e-mail PBCJayess@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook®

Registration begins at 10am on March 3rd
No Registration Costs ♦ Door Prizes will be given.

Complimentary Lunch and Dinner!
Nursery provided for infants and toddlers!
KidsKingdom (ages 3-11) with special guest
Illusionist Michael Cooper



Dr. Larry Leblanc

Dr. Joe McKeever

Dr. Chuck Kelley

Rev. Derek Lambert



Worship Leader
Randy Wood

Featuring
Red Roots
Trio



STAFF CHANGES



1. The Freemans

1. Macedonia Church, Petal, has called Shane Freeman as pastor, effective Feb. 1. Shown is the Freeman family: Ethan, Daphne,

Shane, Benjamin, and Timothy.

2. Murphy Creek Church, Louisville, has called Taylor Yarbrough of Louisville as youth pastor. He last served Chester Church, Choctaw Association.

3. Ron Gilstrap, who has pastored churches in east

2. Yarbrough

Mississippi and south Alabama, is available for pulpit supply, interim or transitional pastoring, revivals, retreats, and biblical and pastoral counseling. He can be contacted at PO Box 876, Decatur, MS 39327; (601) 663-9620; or gilstrapron@yahoo.com.

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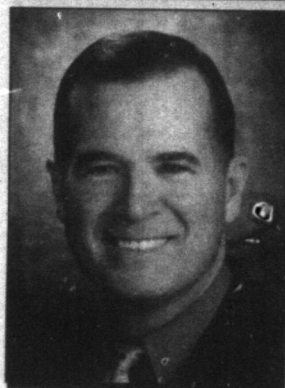
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Register



3. Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive



6. Everett and Michel

1. Dean Register, pastor of Crosspoint Community Church, Hattiesburg, has written the Explore the Bible commentary on the gospel of Luke for spring, 2012. He is a past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and current trustee chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Education Commission.

2. Raymond Road Church, Jackson, will host a Branson Family Variety Show Mar. 2, 7 p.m., and Mar. 3, 2:30 p.m. Artists include Spoken 4 Quartet and comedian Homer Lee. Tickets, \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Concessions open 5 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday. Tickets available online at www.itickets.com or by calling (417) 231-5795.

3. Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive, broke ground on their Fellowship Hall recently. Shown are Charlie Anglin, Michael Knight, Allison Duckworth, Beverly Ponder, Charlie Williams,



4. Enterprise Church, Enterprise

and Mike Nichols. Nelson Crozier, pastor.

4. The GAs from Enterprise Church, Enterprise, made valentines for the Enterprise Senior Citizen Center in Clarke County. Shown are the participants.

5. Sunrise Church, Petal, will be hosting a retirement reception for Gerald Buckley after 54 years of full-time pastoral service on Feb. 26, noon.

6. A retirement reception was held for Mike Everett at First Church, Newton, Feb. 5. He served as associational mission director of Newton Scott County Associations from Aug. 15, 1999 until Jan. 31, 2012. He is shown, left, with David Michel.

7. The youth of Hurricane Creek Church, Sandy Hook, sponsored a Valentine banquet Feb. 11 to raise money for Centrifuge in Jackson,

Tenn. Jerry Mixon, guest speaker. Shown are the youth.

8. First Church, Runnelstown, will host Raising the Standard men's event Feb. 25, 9 a.m. Junior Hill, Mitch Williams, Ergun Caner, Jim Futral, and James Messer, speakers. Call (601) 583-3733 for more information.

9. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, will

host a wild game supper Mar. 3, 5 p.m., featuring wild game dishes, door prizes, and auctions. James David Bonner, speaker.

10. Ogden Church, Benton, will host Mayberry Dinner Theater Mar. 3, 6 p.m., at the Benton Gibbs School. \$20 single; \$30 double. Tickets available at Stove Up, Blue Rooster, and Planters Supply.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. O'Zion Church, Meadville: Revival, Mar. 2 - 4; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mike McKee, speaker; Phillip Alford, music; Glenn Bird, pastor.
2. Valley Park Church, Valley Park: Revival, Feb. 26 - 29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; David Hamilton, speaker; Randy Wood, music; Ronnie Purser, pastor.
3. Friendship Church, McComb: Revival, Mar. 2 - 4; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and 1 p.m.; revival choir, Fri. - Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Alton Foster, speaker; Jimmy Bilbo, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.
4. Magnolia Church, Laurel: Homecoming, Mar. 4; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Clyde Little, speaker.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Prominent leaders like Michael Ducker, chief operating officer for FedEx Express, will be among the speakers at Mississippi College's Faith & Business Ethics Week. The February 20-23 program is presented by the School of Business and created by Tennessee businessman Don "Papa" Jordan, a 1951 MC graduate. The roster of speakers includes L.D. Jordan (shown), his son, Trey Jordan, owner and president of Holiday Deli in Memphis, John Clagg, chief financial officer with Newks restaurants, Martin Willoughby, chief operating officer with

Butler Snow Advisory Services, Judy Johnson, Bomgar's director of talent acquisition, and Percy Thornton, owner of Utility Trailer. Other notable speakers include Memphis attorney Thomas R. Dyer, former managing partner of the McDonnell Dyer firm, Harry L. Smith, co-owner and chairman of Schilling Enterprises, and Jim Witherington, managing partner of SSM, a leading investing company. Tickets for the Faith & Business Ethics luncheon on February 23 are \$25. Please RSVP to mcbusiness@mc.edu or call Katrina Pace at (601) 925-3421.



1. Jordan

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Center of My Life

Col. 3:1-4:6

By Burn Page

Automobile tires can become "out-of-balance," a condition that causes excess wear and an uncomfortable ride. The same affect is noticed when our lives are out-of-balance. This condition develops when we don't allow Christ to be the center of our lives. However, when we place Christ at the center, he shapes our character, guides our homes, and directs our interactions with unbelievers. Paul admonished his readers to cultivate a Christ-centered character. The Colossians were not to live like those around them. So how were they to live? From 3:5-4:6, Paul issued a series of commands.

The first group of the commands encouraged personal spiritual growth. These are: "put to death" (3:5); "put off" (KJV) or "you must rid yourselves" (3:8); "do not lie" (3:9); and "put on"

(KJV) or "clothe yourselves" (3:12), "bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another" (3:13), forgive" (3:13), and "put on love" (3:14). Paul used two pictures to organize these commands: "death to life" and "changing clothes" (Melick). The second group of commands was directed to the church (3:15-17). They should always "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" and "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." The third group of commands concerned the family (3:18-4:1). These commands encouraged the family to submit to God's order in the home. The fourth group of commands related to the ministry of the gospel (4:2-6).

Paul admonished the Colossians to "put to death" whatever belonged to their earthly nature. Even though



Page

they had died with Christ, they seemed to be unaware of the specific implications of salvation and were not living a consecrated (Christ-centered) life. In Romans chapter six we find a parallel thought. Paul taught that, in the spiritual reality, the believer "went to the cross" with Christ, was buried with Christ, and was raised a new person. The old self was crucified. Rather than serving old vices, the believers now serve Christ. People serve whom they obey.

In the first list of vices, Paul identified five sins which relate to personal actions. Four are sexual sins and the fifth is covetousness. He located these sins in the *mele*, translated *members* (KJV) or *whatever belongs to your earthly nature* (NIV). Rather than referring to parts of the body, Melick argued that these terms appear to refer to actions, attitudes, and appearances, all of which are the agents through which persons express themselves. These sins, Paul warned, incur the wrath of God, which is not primarily an

emotion but an active reaction of his nature (which is holiness) against all that is contrary to his nature.

The second list of vices is more social in nature and deals with attitudes that destroy relationships: *anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language* (v. 8). Paul reminded the Colossians that they had taken off the "old self" (the pre-Christian, unregenerate state) and had put on the "new self" (a regenerated person), and the new self must be renewed continuously to reflect the image of Christ. Therefore, the Colossians were to "clothe" themselves with *compassion, kindness, meekness, and patience* to ensure harmony in the church. Paul focused on the person who was to have patience rather than the one causing the problem. They were to be enduring (putting up with one another) and forgiving. The latter speaks to the offended party, not the offending one. Anyone can hold a grudge, but the mark of the Christian is that they do not.

In regard to families, Paul addressed the one who submits first — wives, children, and

slaves. Wives are to submit to their husbands but here the verb is in the middle voice and describes voluntary (Christ-like) submission. The term does not suggest slavery or servitude and never calls for the husband to make his wife submit. Children and slaves are to "obey"; the wife is not. She has a very different relationship to her husband than children to parents and slaves to masters (Melick). Further, husbands are to love their wives and not be harsh.

Paul also admonished his readers literally to "being watchful in thankfulness" in prayer. Thankfulness is the environment for good praying. They were to pray (1) for an open door (opportunity) for the gospel to be preached and (2) that Paul might proclaim it clearly. Paul used the word "manifest" rather than "proclaim" (NIV). The word suggests "a revealing of what is hidden" in order to make the gospel known. Amen.

Page is chair of the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at Mississippi College and a member of First Church, Clinton.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Keep Your Behavior In Line

Jeremiah 22:13-21

By Melleen Moore

Moses knew the Children of Israel well, having spent most of his life with them. They had experienced the good and the bad in their relationship. However, as Moses delivered his last sermon, wrote his last song and blessing, and presented the new leader that God had chosen, the focus is on the goodness of God.

Keep Bragging on God To the End

Deuteronomy 33:1-5

Moses is described as "the man of God" (Deuteronomy 33:1, NKJV) reflecting the godly legacy with which he would be remembered. Moses follows the protocol of Jacob as he blessed his family for the future. Moses ascribed a blessing on each tribe of Israel before his death. A brief review of Moses' life with the Children of

Israel features God's greatness and how much He loved them. The Lord is the main character in the mountains of Sinai, Seir and Paran of how He came, dawned, and shone with His 10,000 angels. The mountainous area was where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments assisted by the angels. The commandments are referred to as "a fiery law" (Deuteronomy 33:2, NKJV) from God's right hand. He displayed His love through the law that He cared for His people. His people were referred to as "His Saints" (Deuteronomy 33: 3, NKJV) or His "Holy Ones" (Deuteronomy 33: 3, HCSB) who sat at His feet in expectation of His Word. God had given the Children of Israel everything they had including the heritage of Jacob. Identifying God as "King in Jeshurun" (Deuteronomy 33:5, NKJV) was



Moore

portraying God as the king of a holy, righteous, covenant people. God was to be the God of "all the tribes of Israel" (Deuteronomy 33: 5, NKJV).

Keep Focusing on God's Purposes

Deuteronomy 34:1-4

Moses leaves the Children of Israel in the plains of Moab and climbs Mount Nebo which is the highest point in the Pisgah mountain range. Moses sees all the land from the northern boundary of Dan to the southern boundary of Zor and the Western Sea (Mediterranean). The naming of tribes suggests the future possession of land to the individual tribes. Moses is being commended by God for his faithful and courageous leadership in fulfilling his calling as his eyes feast on the land "flowing with milk and honey." For Moses to have been able to envision such a vast territory indicates God gave him more than normal eye sight. The Lord reminds Moses of the promises made to Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob that their descendants would inherit the land. Moses experienced joy in seeing the land and rejoiced that the Children of Israel would finally enter Canaan. Moses denied to enter the land resulted from being disobedient to God (Numbers 20:7-12).

Keep Preparing and Encouraging New Leaders

Deuteronomy 34:5-9

Moses' life ended in the land of Moab after paving the way for new leadership for the Israelites. In chapter 31: 3, Moses follows God's direction in naming Joshua as the Israelites new leader. Moses sights two reasons that he will not enter Canaan — his age and that God said "You shall not cross over the Jordan": (Deuteronomy 31:3, NKJV). God buried the 120 year old Moses in the land of Moab of His own choosing "but no one knows his grave to this day" (Deuteronomy 34: 6, NKJV). God is glorified in the physical condition of Moses at his death with good eye sight and full of natural vigor. The Children of Israel wept and mourned for Moses for thirty

days showing great respect of his leadership. Joshua was ready to lead — "full of the spirit of wisdom" Deuteronomy 34: 9, NKJV). In the laying on of hands Moses gave Joshua a blessing for military might and spiritual preparedness.

Keep Growing in Your Relationship with God

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

Moses had been a one of a kind prophet with a growing relationship with God. He is the only prophet to know God face to face in an intimate relationship. He was more than a prophet; he was a national leader and great orator. Moses was called, commissioned and commended by God as a servant to lead the Israelites. He was a man of great courage, humility and wisdom. The book of Deuteronomy closes highlighting Moses' life — signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in Egypt. Moses' actions represented the mighty power of God and demonstrated his obedience to a loving God.

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST
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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

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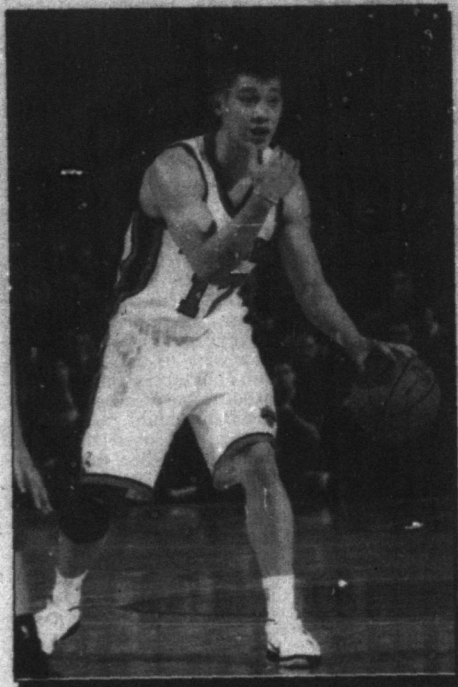
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'Linsanity' grows player's witness

Attention on new basketball sensation spotlights faith



SUPERSTAR — Jeremy Lin has set the basketball world on fire with his extraordinary play since becoming a starter for the New York Knicks of the National Basketball Association. Lin accepted Christ as a high school freshman in California. (BP photo courtesy of Dave Saffran/MSG Photos)

NEW YORK (BP) — Daniel Chan, a lifelong Los Angeles Lakers fan, faced a dilemma on Feb. 10 with his team playing the hated New York Knicks and their sudden star Jeremy Lin.

"Some people had asked me before the game who I'd be cheering for — Jeremy or the Lakers," said Chan, pastor of student ministries at Redeemer Bible Fellowship in Mountain View, Ca. "I've never cheered against the Lakers but Jeremy is a member of our church and a friend, part of our flock. I had to root for him. It was hard, but..."

Lin has gone from unemployed National Basketball Association (NBA) wannabe to household name and worldwide superstar in only a matter of days. His unexpected emergence as the starting point guard for the Knicks has sparked the struggling team and launched the "Linsanity" that has gripped both the city of New York and the broader sports world.

Lin's story is one of perseverance and persistence, of hard work and humility — but most of all Lin's story is about strong faith in Jesus Christ, devotion to Bible study, prayer, and commitment to spreading the Gospel whenever he gets the opportunity.

"I'm just thankful to God for everything," Lin said in a recent post-game interview, as quoted by Religion News Service. "Like the Bible says, 'God works in all things for the good of those who love Him.'"

How good has Lin been since cracking the Knicks' lineup? New York was 8-15 before Lin scored 25 points off the

bench Feb. 4. His next six games as a starter were all wins. He set an NBA record for the most points scored in the first five starts of a career.

In that game against the Lakers, Lin scored 38 points. On Feb. 14 against Toronto, Lin drained a three-pointer with less than a second remaining to give New York a 90-87 win. After struggling against New Orleans in an 89-85 loss on Feb. 17, Lin bounced back to score a team-high 28 points in a Feb. 19 win over Dallas.

The son of Christian Taiwanese immigrants who settled in California, Lin led his high school team to a state championship before playing college basketball for Harvard and helping the Crimson to their best record ever (21-7) in 2009-10.

Lin, who became a Christian as a freshman in high school, matured greatly in his faith during his time at the Ivy League school. He was an active member of the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Christian Fellowship, one of eight InterVarsity chapters at Harvard. Lin met regularly with Adrian Tam, an InterVarsity campus staff member at the time. The two studied the Bible together and read books together, such as *Too Busy Not to Pray*.

"First and foremost, he is a disciple of Christ," Tam said about Lin. "That becomes very evident from the beginning. When you meet him you don't think, 'Oh wow, this must be an important person.' He's very humble."

In some ways, you might even think he downplays a lot of these things — his intellect, his ability, and all that."

Tam said Lin's goal and quiet ambition was to be "not only the best basketball player he could be, but also to be the best Christ-follower he could be."

Lin didn't get picked in the 2010 NBA draft but signed with his hometown Golden State Warriors in July of that year. He saw little playing time with the team in his first season, however, and the Warriors waived him in December before the 2011-12 NBA season.

The Rockets claimed Lin off waivers, but then waived him again a couple weeks later. On Dec. 27, the Knicks claimed him to be a backup. Lin soon changed those plans and has become the NBA season's biggest news.

According to a USA Today story Feb. 17, Lin had the top-selling jersey at NBAstore.com from Feb. 4-12, with merchandise being shipped to 22 countries.

In the midst of his sudden fame, Lin's pastor said his desire is to use it to glorify the Lord. "He wants to be careful with it," said Stephen Chen, pastor of Redeemer Bible Fellowship in Mountain View, Calif. "I think he wants to be able to enjoy what he can enjoy in the things that would honor God, and at the same time be cautious about how he lives his life. He wants to be the same person."

MLB standout remembered for loving baseball, loving Jesus more

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP) — After battling brain cancer for nearly nine months, baseball Hall of Fame catcher Gary Carter died Feb. 16 in West Palm Beach, Fla., where he had been head baseball coach at Palm Beach Atlantic University since 2009. He was 57.

Nicknamed "The Kid" for his infectious smile and enthusiasm, Carter was diagnosed with four small brain tumors in May 2011 and had been receiving chemotherapy and other medical treatments for a type of cancer deemed inoperable.

Carter, a devout Christian, leaves behind a legacy in many circles for his athletic abilities, charitable endeavors, and unyielding faith.

His most recent career path led him to join his daughter and son-in-law, Kimmy and Kyle Bloemers, at Palm Beach Atlantic University where Kimmy is the head softball coach for the Sailfish and Kyle is an assistant athletic director.

Inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003, Carter was one of the greatest catchers ever to play the game. Spending a majority of his 19-year playing career with the Montreal Expos and New York

Mets, Carter helped lead the Mets to a World Series championship in 1986 as he started a two-out rally in Game Six to propel the Mets to an improbable victory in seven games.

Following his playing career, Carter went into coaching and managing with in the minor league ranks and independent baseball before settling in as PBA's head coach in October 2009.

Carter had made Palm Beach County his permanent home

since 1982. His Gary Carter Foundation was instrumental in raising funds and awareness for such causes as juvenile diabetes, children with autism and in providing education resources to local schools.

It seemed almost providential that Carter came to Palm Beach Atlantic when he did, Kimmy Bloemers said. The family always had a home in South Florida, where the Montreal Expos came for spring training. After his career in the majors,

Carter traveled a lot as a broadcaster and baseball manager.

When Palm Beach Atlantic University approached him about the coaching position, he embraced the opportunity to invest in a Division II program at a Christian university

and spend more time with family who live nearby.

"My primary goal is to help these young athletes become better Christians and prepare them for life, not just baseball," he said when he joined the school's athletic program in 2009.

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